



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

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Idiosyncratic World of Artist Richard Reyes Revealed in Library Exhibition *More Than 30 Drawings on Display from July 18 through Aug. 28*

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library will present more than 30 graphite-on-paper drawings by San Diego artist Richard Reyes in “In Search of Neverland,” from July 18 to Aug. 28 at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library. To date this is the most comprehensive exhibition ever organized of the artist’s work. The public is invited to a reception for the artist on Sunday, July 24 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Primarily self-taught, Reyes began drawing at age five to compensate for a severe stutter. Over the years his style, largely influenced by mainstays of popular culture such as graphic novels, comic books, and black and white movies, has evolved into a unique and effective means of expression which fuses technical, almost slick, virtuosity with a provocative undercurrent of psychological unrest.

The majority of the works showcased in “In Search of Neverland” were inspired by “Peter Pan,” J.M. Barrie’s dark and classic fantasy published as a children’s book in 1911. The tale’s cast of bizarre characters and references to death and lost youth are ideally suited to Reyes’ imagination and resonate with aspects of his psychological makeup, Hispanic heritage, and tragedy in his own life. However, as the humor permeating this exhibition reveals, Reyes is not above skewering cultural icons such as Santa Claus, or subverting major institutions. This irreverence has delighted cynics and, at times, enraged traditionalists.

The multi-layered meanings and narrative content found in Reyes’ intimately scaled drawings,

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coupled with their graphically powerful imagery and impeccable technique, make “In Search of Neverland” a delightful and thought-provoking exhibition.

Reyes will be the subject of a half-hour interview, hosted by Library Curator Mark-Elliott Lugo as part of the ongoing “Profiles” series on City TV 24. The interview will air on a regular basis beginning in early August.

The Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library is located at 4275 Cass St. The library will be open Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 to 8 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Fridays 12:30 to 5:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. All Visual Arts Program events are free of charge and open to the public.

The City of San Diego Public Library’s Visual Arts Program is a nationally recognized series of exhibitions, lectures, and other art-related activities. The mission of the program is to demonstrate the library’s role as a cultural institution embracing a broad range of disciplines, while assisting San Diego’s mid-career and older artists in achieving wider local, regional, and national attention. Visual Arts Program exhibitions are made possible, in part, by a grant and gifts from the Frederic Whitaker and Eileen Monaghan Whitaker Foundation and CompUSA, contributions from individuals, and volunteer efforts. Donations of works of art for the library’s permanent collection are also being sought. For more information about the Reyes exhibition or tax-deductible contributions to the Visual Arts Program, the public can call Library Curator Mark-Elliott Lugo at (619) 238-6627.

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